(c) Similar System is being provided at Mumbai International Airport.

Enhancement of allowances of Pilots in Air India

2503. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India signed an agreement with Pilot Association giving an allowance of Rs. 50,000 to 60,000 per month without any additional productivity;

(b) what are the reasons for this further enhancement to the Pilots who are drawing a huge salary; and

(c) whether the demands of other categories are not considered; if so the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The agreement signed by the Management with Indian Pilots Guild on 3.1.98 envisages a payment of by pass allowance per month of Rs. 50,000/ 48,000 for Commanders and Rs. 36,000/- 34,000 for Co-pilots respectively who are in the grade for more than 2 years/upto 2 years.

This settlement has resulted in (i) increased utilisation of aircraft (ii) Reduced time off and (iii) Career Progression for Pilots and Co-Pliots.

(c) The management has considered the demands of the other categories and signed Memorandum of Settlement with various Unions/Association/Guild.

Replacement of old Boeing aircrafts

2504. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered the inspection of Boeing 737 Aircraft with Indian Airlines and Alliances Air in view of US Government ordering the inspection of aged Boeing 737;

(b) what is the life span of Boeing 737 Aircraft and whether Government have programmed to phase out the aged Boeing Aircraft;

(c) whether Government have received the report from Boeing Company regarding the inspection of aged Boeing Aircraft; if so, the major findings thereof; and

(d) if not, by when Government will be getting the report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manufacturer has not stipulated any fixed life span for Boeing 737 aircraft. However, the design economic life for Boeing 737 aircraft as stipulated by Boeing Company is 75000 flight hours/ 51000 cycles/20 years.

(c) and (d) Director General of Civil Aviation has received documents from Boeing company on inspection of aged Boeing aircraft. These documents call for inspection of the critical areas of aged aircraft based on flying hours/flight cycles/elapsed time. Such inspections have been declared mandatory for compliance by all B737 aircraft operators. These inspections are complied with as and when due.

Upgradation of Madurai Airport

2505. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert the madurai Airport to an international airport and provide better facilities to improve the turnout of tourists to this historical city;

(b) if so, when the project will be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?